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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1947

#### W. L. MCATEE RETIRES FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Waldo Lee McAtee, nationally known wildlife scientist, retired from Government service on September 30, 1947, after 43 years of duty with the Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Biological Survey, Albert M. Day, Director of the Service, announced today.

Mr. McAtee is widely known as an authority on the food of birds in relation to agriculture, and has been active in the planning and supervision of Federal investigations into the food habits of birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Mr. McAtee was born at Jalapa, Indiana, on January 21, 1883 and received his elementary education in the local grade schools and the Marion, Indiana high school. In 1904 he was graduated from the University of Indiana, where he majored in zoology.

In the summer of 1903, Mr. McAtee received a temporary appointment with the Bureau of Biological Survey as a biological expert. After his graduation from college and he was assigned to the study of the food habits of birds and mammals. During the next two years he continued his academic studies and in 1906 was awarded his Master of Arts degree by Indiana University.

In 1916 McAtee was named assistant biologist in charge of economic ornithology. He continued in this position until 1921 when the Division of Food Habits Research was set up and he was placed in charge of the work. While heading this activity, he advanced by promotion to senior biologist and, in 1929, to principal biologist of the Bureau.

In addition to his regular work, Mr. McAtee has served since 1920 as Acting Curator of Hemiptera for the U. S. National Museum. He was also a member of the Department of Agriculture Committee on Land Utilization from 1922 until the dissolving of that body in 1930 and contributed valuable services in formulating the land policies of the Department.

In June 1936 Mr. McAtee was appointed as Technical Advisor to the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and Research Specialist. After the formation of the

Fish and Wildlife Service in 1940, he continued in the role of Technical Advisor to the Director.

Investigations in the field have taken Mr. McAtee to all but two of the 48 states. In 1927 he was sent to Europe to study continental methods of raising game birds in captivity, and while there visited museums in the principal cities of Europe to investigate their methods of working up experiments.

His first scientific papers, containing reports on his research work for the Bureau of Biological Survey, were published in 1905 and since then he has been a constant contributor to the Government's series of scientific publications and informative bulletins. To date his writings number around 750 scientific, mainly on birds, insects, and plants; 25 literary; 20 on dialect and others, besides thousands of abstracts.

In recognition of Mr. McAtee's scientific accomplishments, he was elected a Fellow in the American Ornithologists' Union and served as treasurer of that body from 1920 to 1938. From 1937 to 1942 he was editor of the Wildlife Society's "Journal of Wildlife Management." While a student at the University of Indiana he achieved membership in the honorary scientific fraternity, Sigma Xi.

He also holds membership in the American Society of Naturalists, Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, Cooper Ornithological Club, Biological Society of Washington, Wilson Ornithological Club, New England Botanical Club, Washington Biological Field Club, Entomological Society of Washington, Indiana Academy of Science, and is a corresponding member of the Royal Hungarian Institute of Ornithology.

Since 1945 Mr. McAtee has had headquarters at the University of Chicago where he is engaged in compiling a "Dictionary of Vernacular Names of North American Birds" which, upon its completion a year or so hence, will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

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